

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 IO-13 AID-05
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O 241320Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 557
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE POUCH
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMCONSUL BUKAVU POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 6603

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EAID CG
SUBJ: MOBUTU ANNOUNCES AMNESTY FOR REFUGEES AND CRACKDOWN ON
CORRUPT SOLDIERS AND GENDARMES

REF: KINSHASA 6507

IN EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH IN LINGALA AT KINKOLE FISHING VILLAGE JUNE 24,

MOBUTU
AGAIN LASHED OUT AT INTERNATIONAL PRESS CRITICISM OF ZAIRE, REPEATING
THE
ARGUMENTS HE MADE BEFORE LEGISLATORS JUNE 21 (REFTEL) TO THE EFFECT
THAT
ZAIRE IS NOT THE "SICK MAN OF AFRICA" AND IS NOT BEING "RECOLONIZED" BY
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EXPATRIATE EXPERTS. ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, HE ALSO ANNOUNCED
--AN AMNESTY FOR ALL ZAIRIAN REFUGEES;
--A CRACKDOWN ON SOLDIERS AND POLICE WHO EXTORT MONEY FROM
INNOCENT CIVILIANS; AND
--THE END OF THE MILITARY EMERGENCY IN SHABA.

2. ADDRESSING LARGE CROWD WHICH INCLUDED DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MOBUTU ANNOUNCED THAT HE INTENDS TO SUBMIT A DRAFT LAW ON AMNESTY OF ZAIRIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR REVISION AND APPROVAL. HE WILL THEN TRANSMIT THE DOCUMENT TO OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO AND TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE UNHCR SUPERVISE THE REPATRIATION OF THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO RETURN TO ZAIRE IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THEY ARE TREATED FAIRLY. BE REFERRING TO FORMER POLICIAL EXILE KAMIATU, NOW LIVING QUIETLY IN KINSHASA, AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT HEHOPED THE AMNESTY PROGRAMWOULD ACCOMPLISH, MOBUTU IMPLIED THAT THEAMNESTY MIGHT ALSO EXTEND TO EXILES IN GENERAL RATHER THAN ONLY TO REFUGEES IN NEIGHBORING AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

3. THE CROWD CAME ALIVE WHEN MOBUTU TURNED TO QUESTION OF ABUSIVE SOLDIERS AND POLICE (GENDARMES). MOBUTU DECLARED THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY SEE THAT ANY SOLDIER, POLICEMEN, OR OTHER GOZ OFFICIAL CAUGHT DEMANING AND ILLEGAL PAYMENT WOULD BE DISMISSED IMMEDIATELY.

4. COMMENT: THE THREE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY MOBUTU INDICATE A MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE REGARDING PRESSURES FOR REFORM THAN WAS EVIDENT IN HIS JUNE 21 SPEECH AND COULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IF IMPLEMENTEDM THE END OF EMERGENCY MEASURES IN SHABA, COUPLED WITH THE AMNESTY OFFER, PAVE THE WAY FOR ADDITIONALSTEPS TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOZ AND SHABA. A REDUCTION IN CRRUPTION BY SOLDIERS AND

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OTHERS WOULD REDUCE POPULAR DISCONTENT THROUGHOUT ZAIRE. WHAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE REGIME WILL FOLLOW THROUGH. RADIO TRANSMISSION OF SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES. FURTHER REPORT WILL FOLLOW WHEN WE HAVE ACCESS TO MORE COMPLETE TEXT.

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